

## THE ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. SANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to implore my colleagues to act with haste on the critical energy crisis that is currently dragging down the productivity of our economy and bleeding our workers bone dry.

My constituents are already weighed down by the heavy burden of taxes and regulations and cannot afford to pay the rising energy prices that currently hinder their ability to invest and rebuild in our local economy in the wake of a global pandemic and the suffocating lockdowns that have absolutely ravaged our communities.

They can no longer afford the inefficient and opaque decisionmaking on our energy policy and strategic reserves by bureaucrats who don't know what it means to be unable to fill up their gas tanks, balance a monthly food budget, or sacrificing the miles they drive in search of baby formula for their children.

On behalf of the constituents of New York's Third Congressional District, I urge my colleagues to join me to aggressively demand commonsense energy policies, to encourage due diligence and transparency from the decisionmakers, and to shore up our strategic reserves for the sake of our precious national security.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
TRACIE ALEXANDER GOLDEN

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Tracie Alexander Golden, who tragically died in the neighborhood that I live in.

Tracie was somebody that was incredibly loved by her community and by her SEIU family. She was a respiratory therapist at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit.

Tracie's mother was known to all of us. She was the chief of staff to Senator Carl Levin for over 30 years.

Tracie cared deeply about the community and wanted justice for those who were disadvantaged and impacted by systemic racism.

Her daughter, Bianca Alexander, said: I am the daughter of Tracie, the victim of a senseless murder just a few days before the new year of 2023. My mother was a loving, hardworking woman who did everything in her power to provide for our family, and in no way, shape, or form deserved a death like this one.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District, I will take a moment to acknowledge and mourn the loss of Mrs. Tracie Alexander Golden.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN  
BORDER

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have an ongoing saga which the mainstream media has begun to wake up to, but they are still not publicizing enough; and that is what is going on at our southern border.

I stand today because last Friday—always on Friday when the President is paying attention—the numbers for December came out as far as illegal immigrants entering the country. They hit an all-time high again. Mr. Speaker, 238,000 illegal immigrants stayed in the country from December 2022. This is not inevitable.

Two years ago, before this administration, in December of 2020, there were about 21,000 immigrants. So we have gone from 21,000 to 238,000 with, I assume, a corresponding increase in the amount of fentanyl coming across the border. Of those 238,000, over 8,000 were unaccompanied minors coming here without a family.

I don't know where these people were or are today who supposedly care about keeping families together when over 8,000 children come here unaccompanied by their parents.

In any event, I hope the American public wakes up and talks a little bit more about the all-time record number of illegal immigrants coming here in December.

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## SOCIAL SECURITY CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker problem, we are going to do a couple things tonight, but first, just every once in a while, when we get behind these mics, and you have got to get something sort of off your chest because it really annoys you.

If I see one more headline from the scribes who are basically the Democrat propagandas—and I am sorry to be that mean. I have tried to treat the press respectfully over these years, but, you know, the Republicans want to cut Social Security and Medicare.

Okay. Up until a few hours ago, I was the senior Republican over Social Security in Ways and Means Committee. No one has asked me.

I talk about Social Security every single day when I am here. I have never met a Republican Member ever, ever, talk about cutting Social Security.

So yesterday, I grabbed one of the reporters out here who had it in their story but had no names. I walked up and said, okay, tell me who this is because I really need to talk to them.

I can't tell you. It is a reporter thing. I can't explain that to you. No, no. You

need to tell me who is telling you to write stories that the Republicans intend to cut Social Security.

I am the ranking Republican—I was up until a few hours ago—over Social Security. I have spent the last year of my life working on it. No, no. I can't tell you who.

If you are going to make crap up, stop doing it in a way that you hurt people.

You know, for my Democrat colleagues, I know power. I know you desperately want to be back in charge, but the fact of the matter is, the math is the math.

You all saw the CBO numbers from a couple days ago. Social Security runs out of money in 10 years.

Do you care?

The fact that CBO is saying there is going to be a 23 percent cut in Social Security recipients' checks in 10 years, we will double senior poverty. Do you care, or is the politics of weaponizing it more important than saving retirement security? This is perverse.

This is called reporting around here? If you want to weaponize something, weaponize something that doesn't crush people.

I feel better getting that off my chest.

All right. I want to do a little something I consider a bit amusing and maybe a little sadistic.

A week ago or so when we were here, I did a presentation on structural deficit. I was trying to talk to the new Members of Congress, you know, my friend from Oklahoma, others. What is actually going on? Where does the debt come from?

The fact that 10 years from now, you have almost a \$2 trillion structural deficit. That \$2 trillion is functionally interest, a trillion bucks, and the growth in Medicare and a little bit of Medicaid.

I did something I almost never do. I actually read the comments. Look, I am appreciative. Almost 600-some-thousand people watched the YouTube video.

You get these comments like, well, cut foreign aid. That will balance the budget. Just don't pay Members of Congress and Senate, and that will balance the budget.

So we had a conversation in our office. How do I explain the scale?

Look, if you are not used to 12 zeros, or in this case, the current deficit, 14—if we are at 31 trillion, that is 14 zeros.

If you are not comfortable with the math, maybe I can find an easy way to discuss this. If this comes across a bit sarcastic, I mean it to.

So we actually built a little calendar, and we thought this would be sort of fun because we have too many people out there—they hear the political class get behind the microphone and say, we have a spending problem.

Then they come up with stupid—excuse me—ideas that really don't save us. So let's actually walk through these.